

# STREET SMART

August 3, 2005

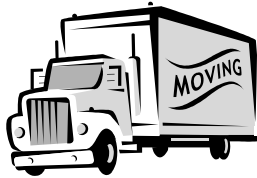
Governments  
**SANBAG**  
Working Together

## Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

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### ■ New neighbors coming to Santa Fe Depot

SANBAG will be putting out the welcome mat for three new tenants before the end of 2005. The Board of Directors approved lease agreements for a San Bernardino police substation, Amtrak offices and Apostle Café coffee shop, all of which will occupy space in the first floor lobby of the Santa Fe Depot.



Tenant improvements are required for each of the leases. Plans will be prepared and work is expected to be completed to allow the tenants to move in before year-end, said Mike Fortunado, vice president of City Commercial Real Estate Services, the property manager for the historic train station.

The presence of these first floor tenants will allow the lobby to open to the public. Train riders and other visitors to the Santa Fe Depot now will have access to indoor seating, shade and restrooms.

### ■ Fluor to prepare Measure I Strategic Plan

Board members selected Fluor Corporation to develop a strategic plan to implement Measure I from 2010 to 2040. The firm, which provides program management support for SANBAG's major projects, was chosen based on the strength of their familiarity with the sales tax measure and the agency's operations, therefore reducing the amount of time needed to prepare the plan.

The plan will include an update of project costs, revenue forecasts, a review of bonding or other advanced funding options, an analysis of the use of federal funds in conjunction with Measure I dollars, project priorities, fair share contributions from new development, agency responsibilities and ways to address cost overruns. Estimates call for the plan to be complete in 12-18 months.

#### **SANBAG Veterans:**

Board members recognized a trio of SANBAG staffers for their years of service to the agency. Pictured are Management Services Director Deborah Barmack (15 years), Accounting Technician II Jenny Betancourt (5 years) and Public Information Officer Cheryl Donahue (5 years).



### ■ Search to begin for new Executive Director

SANBAG will hire a consultant to help recruit a new Executive Director to replace Norm King, who will retire at the end of this year or early next year.

King, 62, announced his retirement plans last month. After heading the agency since 1996 and serving as the city manager for Claremont, Palm Springs and Moreno Valley for a combined 22 years, he will step down from SANBAG



**Executive Director  
Norm King**

between December 29 and January 15.

"This is truly a bittersweet decision," said King, who cites the renewal of the Measure I half-cent sales tax and the completion of major freeway projects as key accomplishments during his tenure.

A consultant firm skilled in recruiting top executives will be hired in September to assist with the search process for a new executive director.

### Down the road ...

- Aug. 10: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.
- Aug. 11: Major Projects Committee, 9 a.m.
- Aug. 12: Alameda Corridor East Assembly Select Committee Hearing, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Aug. 17: Plans & Programs Committee, 12 noon
- Aug. 19: Mountain-Desert Committee, 9 a.m.
- Aug. 24: Women's Transportation Seminar Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.

# New federal transportation act is mixed blessing

## SANBAG is disappointed with shortage of grade separation funding

The passage of the new federal surface transportation reauthorization bill on July 29 brought mixed results for San Bernardino County. The bill provides \$286.5 billion for nationwide highway, mass transit and road safety programs through September 30, 2009.

The new bill will ensure that states receive a minimum of 92 cents for every dollar that they contribute to the Highway Trust Fund by 2008. The rate of return will start at 90.5 cents per dollar this year and grow to 92 cents over the next four years. The Highway Trust Fund is made up of the 18.4 cents per gallon in federal gasoline taxes paid at the pump.

Executive Director Norm King reminded members of the Board of Directors that the purchasing power of gas taxes is continuing to decline. Californians are driving more miles per year and operating more fuel efficient vehicles, so the value of both state and federal gas taxes is eroding.

### Projects of Regional and National Significance

Five California projects will receive \$423 million through the bill's "Projects of Regional and National Significance" category. Within this category is \$125 million for Alameda Corridor East projects, which was a major disappointment for the region, King said. San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles and Orange counties had expected to receive a combined \$900 million for Alameda Corridor East grade separations, King explained. Each county would have received about \$125 million to separate streets from train tracks, thereby eliminating traffic delays and improving safety and air quality. Instead, a total of \$125 million was allocated for the combined four-county region, reducing the amount to about \$31 million for each county.

Also within this category is funding for \$55 million in roadway improvements near the former Norton Air Force Base, a project commonly referred to as Congressman Jerry Lewis's Inland Empire Goods Movement Gateway. This project will include funding for improvements to the Interstate 10 Tippecanoe Avenue interchange, Third Street, Fifth Street and other connector routes.

### High Priority Projects

In addition to the Projects of Regional and National Significance, 21 other San Bernardino County projects were allocated funding as "High Priority Projects." These include:

- Mt. Vernon grade separation and bridge expansion in Colton, \$1.6 million
- I.E. Transportation Management Center in Fontana, \$1.2 million
- Riverside Avenue railroad bridge improvements in Rialto, \$400,000
- I-15 BaseLine Road interchange in Rancho Cucamonga, \$4 million
- High Desert Corridor and new interchange, \$4 million
- I-10 Riverside Avenue interchange in Rialto, \$1.6 million
- Ranchero Road grade separation in Hesperia, \$4 million

- I-10 Grove Avenue interchange improvements in Ontario, \$2.4 million
- Ramona Avenue grade separation in Montclair, \$1.6 million
- Pine Avenue extension to Euclid Avenue in Chino, \$6.8 million
- Interstate and road improvements near the former Norton Air Force Base (in addition to the \$55 million designated through the Projects of Regional and National Significance), \$20 million
- Traffic and pedestrian safety improvements in Yucca Valley, \$1.6 million
- Monte Vista Avenue grade separation in Montclair, \$1.6 million
- U.S. 395 realignment and widening, \$400,000
- Peyton Avenue widening and construction of Eucalyptus Avenue in Chino Hills, \$5.6 million
- I-15 interchange at La Mesa/Nisqualli Avenue in Victorville, \$1.2 million
- State Street/University Parkway grade separation in San Bernardino (city and county), \$1.6 million
- Lenwood Road grade separation in Barstow, \$1.2 million
- I-10 Cypress Avenue overpass in Fontana, \$2.4 million
- Washington Avenue grade separations in Colton, \$400,000
- Hunts Lane grade separation in Colton and San Bernardino, \$5 million

### Transit Projects

Funding also was allocated to four high priority bus projects, including \$1.67 million to the El Garces Intermodal Facility in Needles, \$836,000 to the Omnitrans Transcenter in Ontario, \$418,000 to the Santa Fe Depot in San Bernardino and \$12.5 million to the Metro Gold Line extension from Pasadena to Montclair.